

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ICAE-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 2163

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, UY

SUBJ: CINCS REACT TO ACCUSATION AGAINST URUGUAYAN MILITARY

MISSION IN WASHINGTON

REF: MONTEVIDEO 2161 (DTG O P 032008Z JUL 78)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. MORNING PRESS JULY 5 CARRIED TEXT OF "ENERGETIC REJECTION" AND DISAVOWAL" BY THREE MILITARY CINC'S OF CHARGES AIRED JUNE 30 BY JACK ANDERSON THAT GOU MILITARY MISSION IN WASHINGTON MAY BE BEHIND ANONYMOUS THREATS TO URUGUAYAN EXILE JUAN RAUL FERREIRA. NO INTIMATION OF CHARGES HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN PUBLISHED HERE, AND COMMUNIQUE MAKES NO MENTION OF FERREIRA. TEXT FOLLOWS BELOW.

2. BEGIN TEXT. "PUBLICATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCIES AND THE U.S. PRESS ARE REPORTING SEMI-OFFICIAL VERSIONS ATTRIBUTED TO THE POLICE OF THEIR FEDERAL CAPITOL, ATTEMPTING TO LINK MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF URUGUAY WITH PRESUMED THREATS AND ATTEMPTS AGAINST AN URUGUAYAN CITIZEN, WHO IS CARRYING ON A CAMPAIGN IN THE NRESPAPERS, DIPLOMATIC, POLITICAL AND TRADE UNION FIELDS AGAINST THE PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS IN URUGUAY.

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"FOR THIS REASON THE JUNTA OF COMMANDERS IN CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES HAS OFFICIALLY PRESENTED OT THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES IN URUGUAY, ON AN URGENT BASIS, THE FOLLOWING REQUESTS:

"1) THAT ALL INFORMATION BE PROVIDED TO PERMIT (THEM)

TO TAKE WHATEVER ACTION MAY BE PERTINENT,

"2) THE ADOPTION OF PHYSICAL SECURITY MEASURES AND MAINTENANCE OF THE MOST ABSOLUTE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION FOR URUGUAYANS RESIDING IN THAT COUNTRY.

"CONSEQUENTLY, THE JUNTA OF COMMANDERS IN CHIEF REJECT AND REPU-
DIATE THE DESPICABLE ATTEMPT WHICH IS REFERRED TO BECAUSE IT IS
OBVIOUSLY CONTRARY TO THE POLITICAL AND ETHICAL TRADITION
OF THE ARMED FORCES AND OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC,
COINCIDING WITH THAT OF THE U.S." END TEXT.

3. EL PAIS VERSION ALSO CARRIED A BRIEF INTERVIEW WITH
NAVY CINC VADM MARQUEZ, WHO NOTED THAT THE COMMUNIQUE, WHICH
WAS "SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR", REFERRED TO "AN ARTICLE WHICH
APPEARED IN THE WASHINGTON POST" (NOT FURTHER SPECIFIED).
EL PAIS WENT ON TO QUOTE MARQUEZ AS FOLLOWS:

".THE JUNTA OF COMMANDERS IN CHIEF HAVE REQUESTED THAT THIS
CITIZEN BE PROTECTED BECAUSE, ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT HE
MIGHT BE MURDERED BY THIRD PARTIES OR BY ANOTHER POWER,
WE DON'T WANT TO BE BLAMED FOR IT. WE ARE ALL CONCERNED
ABOUT THE SITUATION OF THIS CITIZEN, NOT ONLY BECAUSE
HE IS AN URUGUAYAN BUT ALSO AS A HUMAN BEING." END
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4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE,
THAT CONTRARY TO WHAT COMMUNIQUE STATES, REQUEST THAT USG
ASSURE PHYSICAL SECURITY AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION OF
URUGUAYANS IN U.S. WAS NOT INCLUDED IN GENERAL ALVAREZ'
OFFICIAL REQUEST TO CHARGE' TRANSMITTED REF. THIS SOMEWHAT
GRATUITOUS EMBELISHMENT AND DECISION TO ISSUE COMMUNIQUE
EVENING JULY 4 APPARENTLY REFLECT (A) FACT THAT HANDLING
OF MATTER ON GOU SIDE WAS BROADENED TO INCLUDE AIR FORCE
AND NAVY CINCS AND (B) POSSIBLE INPUTS FROM GOU DELEGATION
RETURNING FROM OASGA AFTERNOON JULY 4, PRESUMABLY WITH
MORE INFORMATION RELATED TO WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE.

INCLUSION OF AIR FORCE CINC BENDAHAN AND NAVY CINC MARQUEZ
INTERESTINGLY TOOK PLACE WHEN THREE CINCS CALLED ON CHARGE
JULY 4 TO PAY THEIR RESPECT IN LIEU OF ATTENDING RECEP-
TION. DURING 40 MINUTE TALK WITH THEM, CHARGE TOOK
ALVAREZ ASIDE TO CONFIRM THAT HE HAD TRANSMITTED ALVAREZ'
MESSAGE RE ANDERSON COLUMN TO THE DEPARTMENT. ALVAREZ CALLED
OVER TWO OTHER CINCS AND TOLD THEM OF HIS INITIATIVE, RE-
ITERATING HIS REQUEST TO CHARGE. THIS REITERATION DID
NOT INCLUDE REQUEST THAT USG ASSURE PHYSICAL SECURITY AND
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION OF URUGUAYANS WHICH APPEARED IN

COMMUNIQUE, NOR DID ALVAREZ INDICATE THAT PUBLIC STATEMENT
WOULD BE MADE.
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